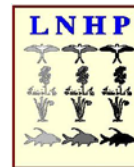




Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program



Phenacobius mirabilis
Suckermouth minnow



Photo courtesy of www.nativefish.org

Identification: Easily identified by fleshy lips that form a sucker-like mouth, small eyes; prominent lateral line down both sides of body; dark rectangular spot at base of lateral line; olive or yellow color above lateral line, silver below lateral line; no pigmentation on fins.

Measurements: Commonly 2 to 3.5 inches in length, maximum recorded length is 4.5 inches.

Taxonomic comments: No recognized subspecies.

Status: Global rank is **G5** and state rank is **S1**.

Habitat: Prefers shallow areas with gravel and rubble in small to medium rivers.

Range: Throughout the Mississippi and Lake Erie drainages. In Louisiana this species is found only in the Sabine River drainage.

Food habits: A bottom feeder that consumes fly and caddisfly larvae, detritus, and plant material.

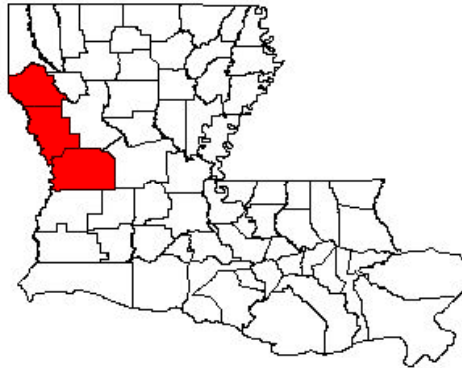
Life expectancy: The maximum reported age is 3 years

Reproduction: Individuals reach sexual maturity at 2 years of age. Spawning occurs in the spring and summer over gravel riffles.

Reason for decline: 1) Sensible to pollution and siltation of habitat. 2) There are few studies on the natural history of this species, making it difficult to find ways to manage for it.

Interesting facts: Current efforts to conserve this species include the establishment of a facility at the Tamarack State Wildlife Area in Colorado to create brood stocks that will be released into the wild.

Known distribution in Louisiana:



Dates of documented observations are: 1966, 1971, and 1983

References

Douglas, N.H. 1974. Freshwater fishes of Louisiana. Claitor's Publishing Division, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Froese, R. and D. Pauly. (eds). 2003. FishBase World Wide Web electronic publication. www.fishbase.org. version 11/2002.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2002. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: January 24, 2003).

Page, L.M., and B.M. Burr. 1991. A field guide to freshwater fishes. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, New York.

Tomelleri, J.R., and K.D. Fausch. 2003. Wildlife in Danger Native minnows of the eastern plains. Colorado Division of Wildlife. http://wildlife.state.co.us/species_cons/wildlifeindanger/easternplains.pdf (Accessed June 29, 2003).